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ROUTING= ADQ, DPQ							
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REF HK200126 MANILA THE MANILA PAPER ENGLISH 14-20 NOV -PHILIPPINES: PAPER GUERIES AGRAVA BOARD CREDENTIALS

REQUEST SOURCELINE APPROVAL FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "THE MANILA PAPER," AS RENDERED IN REFERENT ITEM.

"THE MANILA PAPER" APPEARS IN THE MASTHEAD IN WHITE LETTERS ON A BLUE BACKGROUND, WITH THE WORD "THE" BEING ONE-GUARTER-INCH LETTERS PLACED ABOVE THE LETTER "M" IN "MANILA PAPER," THE LATTER BEING LETTERS 1 AND 1/4 INCH-HIGH. THE MASTHEAD ALSO CONTAINS THE SLOGAN "SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW." BELOW THE MASTHEAD, THE EDITION VOLUME AND NUMBER ARE GIVEN, ALONG WITH THE DATE, CITY (MANILA, PHILIPPINES) AND COST PER COPY.

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION APPEARS ON PAGE 4. REUBEN R. CANDY
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ROUTING= DPG, TPG

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Take 1 of 2 --- Philippines: Paper Queries Agrava Board Credentials

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Manila THE MANILA PAPER in English 14-20 Nov 83 pp 5, 8 (tentative)

((Report: "The Agrava Board: How Credible?"))

Agrava Fact-Finding Board to investigate the assassination of the late Sen Benigno Aquino, Jr.

But is the Agrava Board an improvement on the Fernando commission which did not possess any credibility at all because its chairman and members were too closely identified with the administration of Pres. Marcos?

Already people are wondering how former Justice Corazon Agrava of Court of Appeals and the other members of teh Board were chosen by Fras. Marcos. Under the Presidential Decree creating the Board, its members are supposed to be nominated by various private sectors they are to represent.

BUSINESS DAY'S October 24, 1983 issue reported that Justice

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M. W. Agrava was appointed to represent the Women Lawyer's Association and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. But was there any nomination made by either of these associations? Observers doubt it, considering that the PD ((Presidential Decree)) creating the Board was issued only on October 14, 1983 and Justice Agrava was appointed on October 22, 1983. There was no time for the lawyer members of these two groups or their officers to meet, discuss and agree on a nominee or nominees, which brings out the question of whether, assuming that there was a nomination, there were other nominees than Justice Agrava. If there were, who are they?

Dante Santos is supposed to represent the business sector and Luciano Salazar, the civic and professional groups. Again, it is being asked which business organizations, civic and professional groups nominated these gentlement? Aside from then, were there otehr nominees? Considering the numerous business, civic and professional associations existing in the country, it is not possible that they could agree on a single nominee to represent them. It is not even possible for them to get together and agree on anything on so short a time.

Amado Diron is supposed to represent the educational sector. The same questions asked about teh appointment of others apply to him.

The only member whose nomination was reported in the newspapers is Emesto Herrera. But those on the labor front point out that his association with the government and men close to the adminsitration does not make him look like the independent, impartial and courageous prober people expect the members of the Agrava Board to be.

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Harrera is the secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), which is widely regarded as pro-government. He is also secretary—general of the Associated Labor Union (ALU). Herrera is likewise a member of the Board of the Welfare Fund of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), a government office. Alu, of which Herrera is secretary general, is headed by Democrito Mendoza, a Commissioner of the Social Security Commission representing labor. Mendoza is also President of TUCP. Other personalities in ALU includes assemblyman Januario Seno, its chief legal counsel, who is a KBL sectoral assemblyman representing labor. Another ALU stalwart is Commissioner Cecilio Seno, who is Executive Vice President of ALU and is an incumbent Commissioner of the National Labor Relations Commissions.

Even Justice Agrava has connections with the government that cannot be ignored. She is the founder of Tahanan Outreach Projects and Services, Inc. (TOPS), a civic organization. Tops has three offices, one each in Manla, Pasay City and Makati.

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